

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5352

INFO DIA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONGEN MILAN

AMCONGEN NAPLES

USCINCEUR VAINGEN GERMANY

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CORR COPY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: MORO NOW EXPLORING POSSIBILITY
FOR INTERIM ONE-PARTY DC GOVERNMENT

REF: ROME 1232

1. MORO'S ATTEMPT OVER WEEKEND (REFTEL) TO FORM DC-PRI-
PSDI GOVERNMENT FAILED WITHIN 24 HOURS WHEN THE REPUBLICANS TURNED
IT DOWN. MORO THEN MET WITH HIS OWN PARTY'S DELEGATION, AND
CONSULTED WITH PRESIDENT LEONE (JANUARY 25). DECISION WAS
TAKEN TO MAKE A LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR
FORMING AN ALL DC INTERIM GOVERNMENT (MONOCOLORE) TO SURVIVE
AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER DC CONGRESS IN MARCH. MORO CONSULTING
OTHER PARTIES TODAY ON THIS POSSIBILITY.

2. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE ALREADY GIVEN UNCONDITIONAL
SUPPORT TO PROPOSAL. REPUBLICANS POSED NO VETO BUT SAID
THEY WOULD DECIDE WHEN A MONOCOLORE GOVERNMENT PRESENTED ITS
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PROGRAM IN PARLIAMENT. MORO REPORTEDLY NOW TRYING TO

GET IN TOUCH WITH SOCIALIST SECRETARY DEMARTINO WHO IS
IN NAPLES.

3. COMMENT: SOCIALIST SOURCE CLOSE TO DEMARTINO CONFIRMED A REPORT THAT PSI WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A DC MONOCOLORE, EVEN ONE HEADED BY MORO, PROVIDED THAT IT PRESENTED AN ECONOMIC PROGRAM SATISFACTORY TO THE PSI. (SAME SOURCE HOWEVER HAD PREVIOUSLY CLARIFIED THAT A PROGRAM SATISFACTORY TO THE PSI IMPLIED ONE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNISTS, EVEN IF NOT NEGOTIATED WITH THEM.) MONOCOLORE IS INDEED SOLUTION DEMARTINO PRIVATELY FELT FROM START WOULD BE MOST ACCEPTABLE TO PSI (ROME 509).

4. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT DEMARTINO DOES NOT HAVE FULL SUPPORT FOR ALL ELEMENTS OF THIS POSITION WITHIN HIS PARTY. PRESSURE FOR EARLY ELECTIONS REMAINS GREAT, ESPECIALLY FROM NENNI AUTONOMIST WING. ALSO, MANCINI FACTION'S CONTINUED OPEN CRITICISM OF MORO RAISES DOUBTS WHETHER IT WILL GO ALONG WITH ANY SOLUTION HEADED BY MORO. IF MORO CONCLUDES MONOCOLORE IS NOT FEASIBLE, NEXT STEP GENERALLY EXPECTED TO BE DECISION BY PRESIDENT LEONE TO REJECT MORO'S RESIGNATION AND SEND HIS DC-PRI GOVERNEMENT TO PARLIAMENT TO SEEK CONFIDENCE VOTE. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD BE PRELUDE TO EARLY ELECTIONS. ANOTHER POSSIBLITY WOULD BE FOR LEONE TO DESIGNATE SOMEONE OTHER THAN MORO TO TRY FORM NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT THERE IS NO TALK OF THIS ALTERNATIVE AT THE PRESENT TIME. VOLPE

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